

**Claims:**

What is claimed is:

1. A method for facilitating the fabrication of a hard cover for at least a portion of an article, the method comprising:
  - positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the article;
  - shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of the article; and
  - applying a layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a hard cover for said at least a portion of the article.
2. The method of claim 1, said molding material comprising fiberglass.
3. The method of claim 1, said shrinking said shrinkable material comprising heat shrinking said shrinkable material.
4. The method of claim 1; said method further comprising:
  - applying a layer of surface coating overlying said fitted cover before said applying said layer of molding material.
5. The method of claim 1, said method further comprising:
  - applying a layer of wax overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of molding material.
6. The method of claim 5, said wax comprising a mold release wax.
7. The method of claim 1, said method further comprising:
  - applying a protective layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of molding material.
8. The method of claim 7, said protective layer comprising polyvinyl alcohol.
9. The method of claim 4, said method further comprising:

applying a protective layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of surface coating.

10. The method of claim 4, wherein said layer of surface coating comprises gel coating.

11. A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the second article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said second article;

applying a first layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;

removing said mold from said fitted cover; and

applying a second layer of molding material overlying said surface of said mold to form the first article.

12. The method of claim 11, said shrinking said shrinkable material comprising heat shrinking said shrinkable material.

13. The method of claim 11, said first layer of molding material comprising fiberglass.

14. The method of claim 11, said method further comprising:

applying a layer of surface coating overlying said fitted cover before said applying said first layer of molding material.

15. The method of claim 11, said method further comprising:

applying a layer of wax overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said first layer of molding material.

16. The method of claim 15, said wax comprising a mold release wax.
17. The method of claim 11, said method further comprising:  
applying a protective layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said first layer of molding material.
18. The method of claim 17, said protective layer comprising polyvinyl alcohol.
19. The method of claim 14, said method further comprising:  
applying a protective layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of surface coating.
20. The method of claim 11, said second layer of molding material comprising fiberglass.
21. The method of claim 11, said method further comprising:  
applying a layer of surface coating overlying said surface of said mold before said applying said second layer of molding material.
22. The method of claim 11, said method further comprising:  
applying a layer of wax overlying said surface of said mold before said applying said second layer of molding material.
23. The method of claim 22, said wax comprising mold release wax.
24. The method of claim 11, said method further comprising:  
applying a protective layer overlying said surface of said mold before said applying said second layer of molding material.
25. The method of claim 24, said protective layer comprising polyvinyl alcohol.

26. The method of claim 21, said method further comprising:
  - applying a protective layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of surface coating.
27. The method of claim 11, said first article comprising a hard cover for said second article.
28. The method of claim 14, said layer of surface coating comprising a sanding primer.
29. The method of claim 21, said layer of surface coating comprising a gel coating.
30. A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:
  - forming over at least a portion of the second article a cover comprising a heat shrinkable material;
  - heating said cover to shrink said heat shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said second article;
  - applying a first wax layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover;
  - applying a first protective layer overlying said first wax layer;
  - applying a first layer of surface coating overlying said first protective layer;
  - applying a first layer of molding material overlying said first layer of surface coating to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;
  - removing said mold from said fitted cover;
  - applying a second wax layer overlying said surface of said mold;
  - applying a second protective layer overlying said second wax layer;

applying a second layer of surface coating overlying said second protective layer;

applying a second layer of molding material overlying said second layer of surface coating to form a first article; and

removing said first article from said mold.

31. The method of claim 30, said first article comprising a hard cover for said second article.
32. A method for fabricating a mold from an article, the method comprising:
  - applying a shrinkable material over at least a portion of the article;
  - shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said article; and
  - applying a layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a mold for said at least a portion of said article.
33. The method of claim 32, said method further comprising:
  - applying a layer of surface coating overlying said fitted cover before applying said layer of molding material.